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Jury Convicts Father of Throwing Young Daughter Off Cliff

A jury today found Cameron John Brown guilty of the first-degree murder of his 4-year-old daughter by throwing her off a 120-foot cliff nearly 15 years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

The jury of six women and six men, who deliberated about 1 ½ days, also found the special circumstances of murder for financial gain and lying in wait to be true.

Brown, 53, will be sentenced to a mandatory term of life in state prison without the possibility of parole when he returns to court on June 19 before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge George Lomeli.

"It's a good day for justice," Deputy District Attorney Craig Hum with the Major Crimes Division said outside of court.

Hum told the jury in closing arguments that Brown threw Lauren Sarene Key off Inspiration Point in Rancho Palos Verdes on Nov. 8, 2000, for revenge because he hated the girl's mother and because he was tired of paying child support.

It is the third trial against the former airport baggage handler. Two previous juries, one in 2006 and the second in 2009, all voted for guilty. But jurors in each of the previous two trials deadlocked on whether to convict Brown of first- or second-degree murder or involuntary manslaughter.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.